

## RESEARCH GUIDE FOR ODESSA PROPERTY OWNERS

---

Listed below are a number of archives and facilities that contain information that would be useful to Odessa property owners regarding the history of their property. A key component to doing research and one not listed below is the oral history/interview. Often, important information can be discovered by talking to neighbors and long term residents. Also, a property owner may wonder why they are entries for the Recorder of Deeds and Recorder of Wills. Researching deeds allows one to establish a chain of title, or a list of the owners over time of a particular building. Deeds can provide important information about parcel changes, easements and, most importantly, help in establishing date(s) of construction. Researching the wills of past owners of a property allows one to obtain dates of death, enabling the researcher to access the owner's obituary, and obtain further information about that person. In addition, probate records often have inventories and other data which can provide information on the past use of the property, the economic status of the owner and how a property was furnished.

### Text

- Bennett, George Fletcher. Early Architecture of Delaware. Wilmington Historical Press: 1932
- Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Delaware. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co., 1888, 2 Vols.

### Resource Guide

#### Town

- Historic Odessa Foundation  
P.O. Box 697, Odessa, Delaware 19730  
Ph. 302.378.4119 | fax 302.378.4050
- Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library  
P.O. Box 115  
115 High Street  
(Corner of High & 2nd)  
Odessa, DE 19730  
Library Office: 302-378-8838  
Fax: 302-378-7803

#### County

- Deeds Recorder, New Castle County  
City/County Building, Eight & French Sts., Wilmington, DE 19801  
Hours: 9-5, M-F  
Phone: (302) 571-7550  
Early deeds are available on microfilm. The later deeds are usually available in the stacks.

- Wills Recorder, New Castle County  
Public Building, Eleventh & Kings Sts., Wilmington, DE 19801  
Hours: 9-5, M-F  
Phone: (302) 571-7545  
Early wills on microfilm.
- Historic Preservation Office, New Castle County  
Engineering Building, 2701 Capital Trail, Newark, DE 19711  
Hours: 8-5, M-F  
Phone: (302) 366-7780  
Historic district and survey information.

### State

- Historic Society of Delaware  
505 Market Street Mall, Wilmington, DE 19801  
Hours: 1-9, M; 9-5 T-F  
Phone: (302) 655-7161  
Information available includes historic atlases, Sanborn insurance maps, state and local histories, genealogical and census information. Also, newspapers (Delaware Gazette, 1800-1877), early photographs and views of New Castle including an extensive survey undertaken in 1930, the 1946 Perry, Shaw & Hepburn Study, and the WPA guide.
- State of Delaware, Bureau of Archives and Records  
Hall of Records, Dover, DE 19901  
Hours: 8:30-4:15, M-F  
Phone: (302) 736-5318  
Historic maps and atlases, histories of Delaware, historic photographs and early views collection, original deed books originals.
- State of Delaware, Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
15 The Green, Dover, De 19901  
Hours: 8-4:30, M-F  
Phone: (302) 736-5685  
National Register nominations, state-wide survey cards, HABS information.  
The Bureau also provides technical assistance on rehabilitation and restoration issues.